

Tennessee Watersheds - WEST

Forked Deer River

Located in West Tennessee, the Forked Deer River watershed includes parts of Dyer and Lauderdale Counties. Originally called Okeena, the Forked Deer River was renamed in the 1780s when surveyors noticed that the branches flowing into the Mississippi River favored a deer's forked antlers. Sighting of a deer with deformed antlers convinced the surveyors to keep the name.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/>.

Kentucky Lake (Western TN Valley)

The Kentucky Lake (Tennessee Western Valley) Watershed is located in Tennessee and Kentucky. The Tennessee portion of the watershed (80.7% of the watershed) includes parts of Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Dickson, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties. Kentucky Lake was created when TVA completed Kentucky Dam in 1944. The dam, located 22 miles upstream of the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, is 206 feet high and 8,422 feet long; it's the longest in the TVA system. The Western edge of the watershed defines the Tennessee Western Valley. The watershed has been divided into upstream (Beech River) and downstream drainage areas (Kentucky Lake).

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Loosahatchie River

The Loosahatchie River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Shelby, and Tipton Counties. "Hatchie" is a Native American word meaning "river". The Loosahatchie River was recognized as a dark river flowing through a swamp.

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Lower Hatchie River

The Tennessee portion of the Lower Hatchie River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Chester, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Lauderdale, Madison, and Tipton Counties. The Hatchie River and Watershed derive their name from the Chickasaw Native Americans (the syllable "Chie" is believed to mean flowing water).

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Lower Tennessee River (Beech River)

The Tennessee Western Valley (Beech River) Watershed is located in Tennessee and Mississippi. The Tennessee portion of the watershed (97.8% of the watershed) includes parts of Benton, Carroll, Chester, Decatur Hardin, Henderson, Humphreys, McNairy, Perry, and Wayne Counties. Kentucky Lake was created when TVA completed Kentucky Dam in 1944. The dam, located 22 miles upstream of the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, is 206 feet high and 8,422 feet long; it's the longest in the TVA system. The Western edge of the watershed defines the Tennessee Western Valley (to the west is the Mississippi River Valley). The watershed has been divided into the upstream (Beech River) and downstream drainage areas (Kentucky Lake).

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Lower Tennessee (East Fork Clark's River)

The East Fork Clark's River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and Kentucky. The Tennessee portion (3.2% of the watershed) includes a part of Henry County. The East Fork Clark's River and Watershed was named in honor of George Rogers Clark. Mr. Clark, a surveyor from Virginia, was instrumental in creating Kentucky County, VA. Capturing control of all territories north of the Ohio River, east of the Mississippi River, and west of the Appalachian Mountains from the British in the War of Independence, Clark later established a home on 37,000 acres awarded him by the Virginia legislature.

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Mississippi River

The Tennessee portion of the Mississippi River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Dyer, Lake, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties. The Mississippi River, derived from the old Ojibwe word *misi-zibi* meaning 'great river', is the second-longest river in the United States. The Mississippi River has the third largest drainage basin in the world, exceeded in size only by the watersheds of the Amazon River and the Congo River. It drains 41 percent of the 48 contiguous states. The New Madrid Fault Zone, which lies near the cities of Memphis and St. Louis, was responsible for three large earthquakes in 1811 and 1812 which changed the course of the river, creating Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee.

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Nonconnah Creek

The Tennessee portion of the Nonconnah Creek watershed is located in the western portion of the state and includes parts of Shelby and Fayette counties. The watershed extends into Mississippi. The Nonconnah Creek is named after the Chickasaw word for long stream. Referenced in the journals of the explorer Hernando de Soto, Nonconnah Creek was a geographic landmark used by early European explorers.

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North Fork Forked Deer River

The North Fork Forked Deer River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henderson, and Madison Counties. Originally called Okeena, the Forked Deer River was renamed in the 1780s when surveyors noticed that the branches flowing into the Mississippi River favored a deer's forked antlers. Sighting of a deer with deformed antlers convinced the surveyors to keep the name.

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North Fork Obion River

The Tennessee portion of the Obion River (North Fork) Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, and Weakley Counties. Obion is thought to be a Chickasaw Indian name meaning "river of many forks". The Obion River system is the primary surface water drainage system of northwest Tennessee and is comprised of four major forks, the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and Rutherford Fork, that flow as separate streams for the majority of their lengths. The confluences of these forks are only a few miles above the mouth of the Obion's discharge into the Mississippi River.

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South Fork Forked Deer River

The South Fork Forked Deer River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, Madison, and McNairy Counties. Originally called Okeena, the Forked Deer River was renamed in the 1780s when surveyors noticed that the branches flowing into the Mississippi River favored a deer's forked antlers. Sighting of a deer with deformed antlers convinced the surveyors to keep the name.

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South Fork Obion River

The Obion River (South Fork) Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Carroll, Gibson, Henderson, Henry, Obion, and Weakley Counties. Obion is thought to be a Chickasaw Indian name meaning "river of many forks". The Obion River system is the primary surface water drainage system of northwest Tennessee and is comprised of four major forks, the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and Rutherford Fork, that flow as separate streams for the majority of their lengths. The confluences of these forks are only a few miles above the mouth of the Obion's discharge into the Mississippi River

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Upper Hatchie River

The Tennessee portion of the Upper Hatchie River Watershed is located in West Tennessee and includes parts of Chester, Hardeman, and McNairy Counties. The Hatchie River and Watershed derive their name from the Chickasaw Native Americans (the syllable "Chie" is believed to mean flowing water).

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Wolf River

The Wolf River Watershed is located in Tennessee and Mississippi. The Tennessee portion of the Wolf River Watershed (68.5% of the entire watershed) includes parts of Fayette, Hardeman, and Shelby Counties. The Wolf River and Watershed are named for the red wolf, which was abundant in Southwest Tennessee when the first settlers arrived. The Chickasaw name, "Blackbird River," was replaced once French mappers began recording what they saw.

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